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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/621,826	07/17/2003	Lixuan Huang	CL2169USNA	9303

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EXAMINER

SAIDHA, TEKCHAND

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1652

DATE MAILED: 10/17/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/621,826

Applicant(s)

HUANG ET AL.

Examiner

Tekchand Saidha

Art Unit

1652

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 November 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

Election/Restriction

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-2, 6-12 & 15, drawn to an isolated nucleic acid (SEQ ID NO: 2) encoding tyrosine ammonia lyase of SEQ ID NO: 3, vector & host cell classified in class 435, subclass 252.3.
- II. Claims 3-5, drawn to a tyrosine ammonia lyase of SEQ ID NO: 3, classified in class 435, subclass 232.
- III. Claim 13, drawn to a method of obtaining a nucleic acid encoding tyrosine ammonia lyase of SEQ ID NO: 3 by probing a genomic library & by hybridization, classified in class 435, subclass 6.
- IV. Claim 14, drawn to a method of obtaining a nucleic acid encoding tyrosine ammonia lyase of SEQ ID NO: 3 by synthesizing at least one oligonucleotide primer corresponding to a portion of SEQ ID NO: 2 & by amplifying the insert present in a cloning vector, classified in class 536, subclass 24.33.
- V. Claim 16-23, drawn to a method of production of para-hydroxycinnamic acid, classified in class 435, subclass 41.

2. The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

The DNA encoding the tyrosine ammonia lyase of SEQ ID NO: 3 of Group I and tyrosine ammonia lyase of Group II are chemically and biologically distinct molecules. The enzyme and DNA have fundamentally different molecular structure, each with its own set of functionality. Enzyme, for example is biologically active, whereas DNA encoding the enzyme, is not. Additionally, the DNA constitutes the genetic material and is composed of the genes, and has other functions besides encoding the enzyme. Since the tyrosine ammonia lyase and the DNA are biologically and chemically distinct, the manner of using the DNA may not necessarily involve the enzyme. At the minimum, the enzyme can

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be used to delineate molecular weight parameters in protein gel electrophoresis whereas the DNA can be used in hybridization protocols.

Group I is related to Group III or IV as process of making and product made. The inventions are distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) that the process as claimed can be used to make another and materially different product, or (2) that the product as claimed can be made by another and materially different process (MPEP 806.05(f)). In the instant case, the DNA encoding the tyrosine ammonia lyase of Group I can be made by a process materially different from the methods of Group III or IV, such as preparation of mRNA and cDNA cloning.

The product of Inventions I and II are not used in the methods of Invention III-V. Therefore, Inventions I & II and III-V are patentably distinct from Invention XX.

3. Applicants are advised that the reply to this requirement MUST include an election of the invention to be examined, even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

4. Applicants are reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a petition under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(l).

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tekchand Saidha whose telephone number is (571) 272 0940. The examiner can normally be reached on 8.30 am - 5.00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ponnathapu Achutamurthy can be reached on (571) 272 0928. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



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October 12, 2005